



October 2014 | SRShelp.org

The Loving Choice of Adoption

A life of abuse and constant struggles led Jessica to St. Raymond's House and a life of hope and encouragement. "For the first time in almost a year, I feel like I have a home to live in, not a shelter," Jessica said.



Jessica

Jessica's journey began when she made the decision to leave a life of abuse and relocate to Jefferson City. She first lived in a local shelter, but after she unexpectedly became pregnant, an adoption counselor told her about St. Raymond's House. "Coming to St. Raymond's is the best thing I could have done for myself," Jessica said. "They have offered me so much including support of my adoption plan."

When Jessica became pregnant she gave a lot of thought to the struggles she was already facing and those that were yet to come. She knew her life was not stable enough to raise a baby and the idea of adoption kept running through her mind. Jessica struggled with the label that women who "gave up" their children were bad mothers. After lots of research, Jessica made the courageous decision to choose adoption. "Adoption shows you have enough love for your child to make the best decision possible for them and their well-being and their future," Jessica said. "My baby is going to have so many opportunities that I would not have been able to give her." Her daughter was born in early September.

Mary Chen, St. Raymond's Society Executive Director, praises Jessica for all she has accomplished. The house is using a new model that is used in maternity homes around the country - the client who is the furthest along in their transitional program serves as the house mother for the group. "Jessica has been doing an excellent job in this new role," Mary said. "She is a wonderful leader and role model."

Jessica has wanted to be a Certified Nurses Aid for a long time. Jessica is excited to say, "With the help of St. Raymond's, I am finally going to be able to accomplish that goal."

A Great Return on Your Donation

Any donation to St. Raymond's Society over **\$100** qualifies for **Missouri State Tax Credits**. The chart below demonstrates the power of these tax credits.

	Donation Amount			
	\$500	\$1,000	\$2,500	\$5,000
	Out-of-Pocket Expense			
Tax Rate - 28%	\$80	\$160	\$400	\$800
Tax Rate - 33%	\$55	\$110	\$275	\$550
Tax Rate - 35%	\$45	\$90	\$225	\$450
Tax Rate - 39%	\$25	\$50	\$125	\$250

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

50% State Credit +
6% State Deduction +
Federal Deduction

St. Raymond's Society has been awarded a **significant amount of tax credits** for use this fiscal year. Please consider a donation that will help us continue our mission and provide a tax benefit to you!

CAUTION MEN WORKING



Jayden & Josiah help Co-Founder Mike Hentges fix the sink at the Columbia St. Raymond's House

PARTNERING WITH PROVIDING RESOURCES, PRO

ST. RAYMOND'S IN YOUR COMMUNITY

A Passion for Mentoring



"God is so good! He gave me someone to walk with from the beginning" SRS Mentor, Karen Leydens smiled as she explained how mentoring has become a passion in her life. She actually refers to it as a "calling." For over 19 years Karen has come along side of women in various troubled situations and walked through the valley with them.

Karen was mentored after going through her own addiction to alcohol. Part of her recovery was to pass on the lessons she learned. She was taught that a person with 1 week of sobriety can help someone with 1 day and to keep a handful of people you know you can contact in crisis. *"Having a mentor is saying to someone else 'I give you permission to tell me anything you see going on in my life that needs to be addressed and speak truth to me.'"* Karen speaks truth to her mentees with compassion and love because those things were shown to her in her time of need.

Karen was introduced to St. Raymond's Society through her church, Solid Rock Family Church. She toured the Jefferson City House and was quickly paired with Sadie, a mother of two children. Karen has appreciated the team-approach that SRS uses in working with clients. She especially enjoys getting to know the kids too, something that hasn't been a part of prior mentoring experiences. Karen and Sadie have been through a lot together, successes and errors, and their relationship is stronger than ever. Perhaps the most important thing Karen has taught Sadie is to live in the now and give the rest to God. With so many issues facing SRS clients, the skill to focus on one thing at a time is crucial in affecting a family's overall situation. Karen

and Sadie pray together regularly, whether it's in person or over the phone. Sadie, who is now employed as a delivery driver for Pizza Hut, has also learned to turn on worship music in her car when anxiety and fear creep in. Sadie says it has made a real difference!

As a seasoned mentor, Karen has wisdom for those considering being a mentor. *"You have to watch to make sure you aren't helping someone just to avoid looking at your own problems"* She also advises that those who want a mentor should pray for the right person to be brought into their lives. Her mentor told her long ago, *"When the student is ready, the teacher will appear."*



Karen and Sadie continue to work together and the fruit is evident. Sadie now has a vehicle, a full-time job, stable child care for her children and continues to work with her recovery program. Sadie has saved money (which she says is a first for her) and hopes to move into her own apartment soon. Both women feel significantly blessed to have one another, not just for now, but for the future.

The godly give good advice to their friends
Proverbs 12:26

WITH MOTHERS, PROMOTING SELF SUFFICIENCY

YOU HELPED!

Where Are They Now...



Delilah - You may not recognize this little lady, but at a couple of months old, Delilah is living with her mother in a new city, closer to extended family. She is happy, healthy, and beautiful!



Alex - A House Guest in 2012, Alex has exceeded every expectation! She is employed full-time with Corwin Honda and is a consistent leader with her recovery group. She is also a full-time accounting student at Columbia College. Alex, her boyfriend and their three children recently moved into their own home. We are so proud of Alex!



Misti - Also a House Guest in 2012, Misti has maintained her career as a receptionist with Dr. Spoledor's office at JCMG. Misti has a stable apartment with her son, Andrew. Great job, Misti!



DID YOU KNOW?

St. Raymond was the patron saint of expectant mothers and midwives. He lived in the 1200's and was a ransomer who worked off the debts of other people to bring glory to God.



Thanks to Helias Catholic High School for hosting this contest! Look for details of the event and how to vote on our Facebook Page

What was the most helpful aspect of your time at SRS?



"Being able to have a place where you weren't worried about where you were going to stay so I could have time to manage to get things done"
- Kloi



"Required to go to work or school while you are here"
- Sadie

"Realizing that God is here for me no matter what"
- Lauren



"Feel like there's someone who actually cares"
- Sheena

"Being my own person and focusing on things I needed to do"
- Octavea

Thanks to our amazing Intern!

Mariah Mitchell, senior at Central Christian College, interns at the Columbia SRS House. Every Monday and Friday she assists with rides, child care and hosts a Bible study for our Clients



Board Members:

- Mike Hentges, Co-Founder
- Steve Smith, Co-Founder
- Shauna Balk, Chair
- Kevin Heislen, Treasurer
- Mary Chen, Program Director

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GET INVOLVED



Thank you for supporting the St. Raymond's Society. Whether you would like to contribute financially, and/or with your time and talent, please complete the following form and return to PO Box 105554, Jefferson City, MO 65110

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Become a Financial Sponsor -----

monthly contributor * \$ _____ per month

special gift \$ _____

* If choosing to donate monthly, a form will be sent to you to set up automatic monthly payment.

Make checks payable to St. Raymond's Society. All contributions are tax-deductible and donations over \$100 qualify for a 50% state tax credit. A charitable receipt will be sent to you at the end of the year.

VOLUNTEER -----

Administrative/Program Services:

- Grant Writing
- Legal Advice
- Auto Repair
- Childcare/Babysitting
- Handy man services
- Providing Meals
- Moving Furniture

Client Services:

- Mentoring
- Budgeting/Financial Planning
- Spiritual Guidance
- Health/Dental Care
- GED Tutoring
- Employment/Job Search Advising
- Parenting Skills Training
- Life Skills Training
- Legal Advice
- Computer Training